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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
(URA or MFP)

TITLE PAGE*

State	District
ALASKA	FAIRBANKS
Resource Area	
FORTYMILE	
Planning Unit	**Number**
FORTYMILE	V

PREPARED OR REVIEWED

/s/ Michael T. Green — (Area Manager) — 9/5/80 (Date)

ORIGINALLY APPROVED

/s/ Carl D. Johnson — (District Manager) — 9/8/80 (Date)

REVIEWED AND UPDATED

AREA MANAGER	DATE

* This form may be used as the Title Page for the Unit Resource Analysis and/or the Management Framework Plan

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Summary of land use decisions and management direction 1-3

1. Lands 4-39
2. Minerals 40-61
3. Forest Products 62-68
4. Range Management 69-72
5. Watershed 73-99
6. Wildlife - Terrestrial 100-147
7. Wildlife - Aquatic 148-168
8. Recreation 169-196
9. Cultural Resources 197-231
10. Visual Resources 232-252
11. Wilderness Management 253-254

II. Cumulative environmental assessment 255-257

III. Public participation record 258-296

SUMMARY OF LAND USE DECISIONS AND MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Much of the Public Land in the Fortymile Planning Unit has been or soon will be conveyed to the State of Alaska or to native regional and village corporations. Other land has been placed under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of this plan is to provide management guidelines for lands which are most likely to remain under long-term BLM administration.

For the most part, lands considered suitable for large-scale development have been selected by the State or the native corporations, and lands considered most valuable for the preservation of unique wildlife and scenic resources have been placed under the administration of other federal agencies. Lands remaining under BLM administration are generally not considered valuable for either wide-area economic development or preservation of large untouched ecosystems, but rather are areas of mixed natural resource values. Therefore, this plan has been written with the goal of providing the most appropriate management for each area and each situation, in accordance with the principles of multiple use.

Land will be made available to meet specific needs which have been identified, such as a highway maintenance station at Eagle and an airport at Columbia Flats. Certain lands will be evaluated for agricultural potential, and may be made available for farming if they are suitable. A policy concerning the construction and occupancy of cabins on public land will be developed.

A transportation plan will be written to provide for development of access routes with the least environmental damage. Easements across private lands will be clearly marked.

Action will be completed on the preference right coal lease application which has been filed in the Jarvis Creek area. The Chicken Creek coal field will remain open to development.

Sand and gravel on public lands will be made available for construction projects as demand dictates, and community pits will be established at Chicken and Eagle. Firewood will also be made available for local use.

Livestock grazing will be limited to a few pack animals, in order to avoid conflicts with wildlife.

All development and surface-disturbing activities will be planned so as to minimize detrimental effects on soils, water quality, visual resources, wildlife, archaeological and historic sites, and other resources. Winter use of off-road vehicles weighing less than 6000 pounds will be unrestricted. Heavier vehicles will require a permit, except on existing roads and trails. The use of vehicles off of existing trails in the summer will be limited somewhat.

Wildlife habitat will be studied to determine if certain areas may require special protection. Wildlife habitat will be improved through the use of various techniques, including prescribed fire.

Fisheries will be protected by providing appropriate stipulations on a case-by-case basis for activities which involve stream bank disturbances, winter water removals, and stream crossing structures.

No new recreation facilities are planned for the area. However, existing facilities will be upgraded, and more visitor information will be available. Historic trails will be rehabilitated.

FORTYMILE MFP MONITORING AND EVALUATION

LAND USE DECISIONS SEPT. 1980

L-1.1-- When the need for additional services is identified, make land available, insuring that all parties are aware of the proposal and all have an equal opportunity to apply for the site.

L-1.2-- Maintain or enhance the availability of public lands within the expansion areas shown in URA Step 4 for urban/suburban expansion.

L-1.3-- Convey lands to the City of Eagle for cemetary purposes (USS 4074).

L-1.4-- Segregate the immediate area of the Walker Fork campground from mineral location and leasing.

L-1.5-- Establish a program for public use of abandoned structures, BLM cabins on public land and the construction and occupancy of new structures.

L-1.6-- Identify and provide suitable sites for waste disposal near Eagle, Chicken and Boundary by 1983.

L-2.1-- Evaluate federal lands along the Taylor Highway north of Mt. Fairplay and south of Chicken, Alaska, and classify those lands suitable for agricultural development. If suitable land is identified, the question of making such land available should be considered carefully at that time, in terms of impacts, alternative uses of the land, and the best method of making the land available.

L-3.1-- Consider the possibility of making the Utility Corridor south of Delta Junction available for State selection.

L-3.2-- Review the recreation site withdrawal (PLO 3432) within the two mile buffer zone of Eagle, Alaska, to determine if the 816 acres withdrawal should be reduced to include only that area currently under intensive use (Ft. Egbert and Eagle Campground).

L-3.3-- Revoke the following withdrawals:
1. Delta administrative site withdrawal (PLO 1599, USS 2777, Blocks 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 of USS 3293).
2. Tok federal reserve (Block 3W, USS 2931)

L-4.1-- Retain the option to permit a right-of-way for the Ladue River railroad by keeping lands along the proposed route free of encumbrances.

L-4.2-- Make land available for airport purposes in the Columbia Flats area (T5S, R32E, F.M. near 125.5 mile of the Taylor Highway).

L-4.3-- Make lands available for a highway maintenance station within the Eagle two-mile zone.

L-5.1-- Establish information signs on each easement within the Resource area. Such posting will be within the parameters to be established by management regulations.

L-5.2-- Prepare and present an Information and Education program for easements in the local areas of Eagle,Northway, Tok, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, and Healy Lake. Informational brochures will be prepared and made available for the public.

L-5.3-- Prepare a transportation plan which will allow access to resources on public and private land. Purchase needed easements on private land, or grant rights-of-way on public land where necessary.

L-6.1-- Develop a communications master plan for the Resource Area utilizing input from the State of Alaska, Doyon Ltd., National Park Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aviation Administration, and any other potential communications sites user that can be identified. The plan would identify requirements for new and existing sites and establish timetables and standards for development. The plan would be completed by EOY FY 83.

L-7.1-- Following the establishment of an alternative solid waste disposal site, undertake the clean-up of the present Eagle dump-site.

L-7.2-- Clean up and close the Bureau dump behind Tanacross Fire Guard Station (T18N, R11E, CRM).

L-7.3-- Determine if any portion of the unauthorized gravel pit in Sec. 36, T1S, R32E, FM lies on Native Allotment F-14529. Rehabilitate that portion of the pit in trespass.

L-7.4-- Begin a public information program including land status maps, school programs, and roadside displays to delineate public lands and define which uses need authorization.

M-1.2-- The Chicken Creek area should remain open to coal exploration and development.

M-1.3-- Proceed immediately with all actions necessary to complete work on Preference Right Coal Lease Application F-014996.

M-2.1-- A five acre community pit should be established in the community of Chicken.

M-2.2-- A five acre community pit should be established in Eagle.

M-2.3-- A five acre community pit should be established at Port Alcan.

M-2.4-- Material sites should be provided for the construction and maintenence of highways, railways, airfields, and pipelines.

M-3.1-- By 1985, all public land, which has been withdrawn by PLO 5250, and has not been recommended to Congress, should be restored to public land, open to mineral entry. The major lands affected are those within the Fortymile River drainage basin (e. g. Butte Creek, Canyon Creek, Walker Fork, and Slate Creek.)

M-4.1-- Conduct mineral inventories as funding permits. Give special emphasis to areas being considered for withdrawal from mineral entry.

F-1.2-- Continue to make firewood available for residential use on the Black Rapids and Taylor Highway free use areas.

F-1.3-- Set aside additional designated areas exclusively for firewood cutting when sufficient demand arises.

F-2.1-- Initiate an inventory of forest resources when it is warranted by demand.

RM-1.1- Issue grazing leases to those individuals currently grazing horses on the public lands and consider new applications to graze horses on a case by case basis.

RM-1.2- When demand requires, initiate a range inventory study within the area.

W-1.1-- Conduct an inventory of the Planning Unit to determine the presence, distribution, and relative numbers of sensitive, threatened, and endangered plant species.

W-1.3-- Limit surface disturbing activities in areas containing sensitive, threatened and endangered plants, and scientifically significant plants or plant communities (shown on overlay). Consider each proposed activity on a case-by-case basis.

W-2.1-- Limit activities within standard project flood limits, in accordance with Executive Order 11988.

W-2.2-- Determine the limits of flood and ice jams hazard on all streams and rivers in the vicinity of proposed construction projects or land disposal areas of public lands.

W-2.3-- Cooperate with other State and Federal agencies in monitoring water quality.

W-2.5-- Evaluate existing snow courses and opportunities for new data gathering sites. Maintain and read snow courses in cooperation with Soil Conservation Service.

W-3.2-- All areas will remain open to winter use (ground frozen to six inches) for vehicles weighing 6000 pounds or less. Existing roads and trails will be open to all vehicles when the ground is frozen to depth of 6 inches or more. At all other times of the year, vehicles exceeding 6000 pounds or any vehicle with a blade will require a permit, and vehicles weighing 6000 pounds or less will be limited to existing roads or trails except for incidental use; for example, to locate camp spots or retrieve downed game animals.

W-3.5-- Conduct appropriate soil surveys in area which are being considered for intensive use or development.

W-4.2-- Develop and initiate a program of prescribed fire which will ensure the survival of some fire-dependent ecosystems. Designation of burn areas will be based on an analysis of benefits versus cost, after consideration of the effects of fire on all resources in the area. Consideration will also be given to the risk to life and property if it should escape. This program should be incorporated into the existing Fortymile Fire Management Plan.

WT-1.1- Nominate known peregrine falcon nesting site designation as critical habitat under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

WT-1.2- The areas identified and delineated on the wildlife overlay are recognized as sensitive areas important for the continued existence and well-being of populations of Dall sheep,caribou, moose, bison, waterfowl and shorebirds, sharptailed grouse, raptors, grizzly bears and other species described in this recommendation and in associated recommendations WT-1.3, 1.4, 1.4a,1.4b, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, and 1.12. Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) will be developed for all designated areas in cooperation and consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. If the nature of the areas and/or species is such that ACEC designation is considered appropriate, proceed with the ACEC designation process.

WT-1.3- Protect identified mineral licks, using appropriate withdrawals if necessary.

WT-1.6a-Prohibit high intensity human activity and resource use on crucial bison calving areas along the Delta River during April 1 to July 1.

WT-1.11-Allow no domestic livestock (except recreational pack animal uses) grazing on Dall sheep and bison ranges, allow no reindeer grazing on any caribou range identified on public lands. (See wildlife MFP Step 1 overlay).

WT-1.13-Reduce wildlife/human conflicts as much as possible. Develop camp requirements concerning such things as garbage disposal, fencing,etc., on a case-by-case basis.

WT-2.1- Initiate planned programs of prescribed fires on public lands in the Fortymile Resource Area to improve habitat conditions for successional wildlife species through development of HMPs and Fire Management Plans to commence in FY 82. Specific target species include moose, bison, waterfowl, sharptailed grouse, various raptors and songbirds. Initial priority burn areas are identified as follows: (See Wildlife MFP Step 1 overlay 2)
1. Tok River-Tok/Little Tok River Moose Unit 5 (FY 82)
2. Taylor Highway- Mount Fairplay Moose Unit 2 Sharptailed grouse leks (FY 83)
3. West Fork Fortymile River-Mount Fairplay Moose Unit 2 West Fork/Dennison Fork Waterfowl Unit 2 (FY 84)
4. Mosquito Fork- Upper Mosquito Fork Moose Unit 6 (FY 85)
5. Delta River- Delta Bison Calving Area Delta River/Granite Mountain Moose Unit 7
Give the identified priority areas immediate consideration under W-4.2.

WT-2.3- Enter into cooperative agreements with affected land owners and resource management agencies to initiate habitat improvement projects that benefit wildlife populations of mutual interest. A priority concern would be prescribed fire in Mosquito Flats.

WT-2.4- Encourage logging and firewood. Plan these actions with habitat improvement as one of the objectives.

WT-2.5- Mechanically remove shrubs in 1/5 to 1/4 acre patches on known sharptailed grouse leks on public land along the Taylor Highway north of Mount Fairplay.

WT-2.6- Insure rehabilitation of material sites by appropriate means. Rehabilitation should be done so as to enhance sharptailed grouse habitat.

WT-3.1- Conduct an intensive peregrine falcon nesting habitat inventory in the Fortymile River drainage. Inventory should include the North, Middle, Mosquito, Dennison, and South Forks of the Fortymile River as well as tributaries. The upper Salcha River should also be included.

WT-3.2- Conduct baseline habitat use, habitat characteristics, movement, and distribution studies for Dall sheep in the Glacier Mountain/ Mount Eldridge Sheep Unit 6. Inventory should include cooperative population studies with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

WT-3.3- Conduct studies to determine caribou winter range, lichen and fire relationships for the Fortymile caribou herd.

WT-3.4- Conduct ongoing, habitat delineation and monitoring studies related to wildlife-fire-succession relationships within the prescribed and prescription fire areas. (see project areas shown on Wildlife MFP Step 1 overlay 2)

WT-3.5- Initiate inventory of crucial waterfowl and shorebird nesting, brood rearing and staging habitat on public land in the Fortymile Resource Area.

WT-3.6- Participate in intensive range and forage utilization studies on the Delta bison herd range with the military and Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

WT-3.7- Initiate inventories of crucial furbearer habitat, emphasizing important harvest areas, key reproduction areas, and other crucial habitats in the Fortymile Resource Area. Inventories and studies should also identify population status, habitat use, distribution and limiting factors related to crucial habitat. Studies and inventories should be conducteed in cooperation with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

WT-5.1- Initiate an educational program that reflects the role of fire in Alaska. The program should reflect fire as a natural agent of change creating habitat diversity that is dynamic and recyclable in maintaining a diversity of wildlife species. The temporal and spacial relationships of habitat need to be emphasized.

WA-1.1- Continue monitoring for a five-year period to determine if the "kink" blocks grayling during upstream migrations.

WA-1.2- Conduct a study on the aquatic biology of the North Fork Fortymile river.

WA-1.3- Conduct a study to determine present recreational use on the North Fork Fortymile River.

WA-2.1- Locate and map in detail specific fish over-wintering areas in streams and lakes in the planning unit.

WA-2.2- Protect fish habitat. Consider actions which will affect fish habitat on a case-by-case basis, and develop appropriate mitigating measures for each action.

WA-3.1- Establish buffer strips on stream banks and on the margin of all lakes where physical alterations are planned or take place through stipulations designed on a site by site basis.

WA-4.1- Coordinate with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game to insure that stream crossing structures will conform with fish passage requirements.

WA-5.1- Coordinate with Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation on all proposed activities which involve discharges into surface waters. Insure that development programs permitted by the Bureau do not exceed the State Water Quality Standards established for such a development.

R-1.1-- Implement the *Fortymile: A Minimum Personnel Contact Visitor Management Program* which provides interpretive guidelines for the Fortymile area. Coordinate with other local, state, and federal agencies to insure that no duplication of effort occurs.

R-1.2-- Provide interpretive exhibits at these locations as funds are available with priorities to be determined by the Area Manager. Other agencies and local residents will be consulted prior to implementation.

Bison view-Delta	Delta/Alcan -info. orientation
Visitor center-Tok	Tetlin Indian Reservation
Border/Alcan - info.	Alaska Range viewpoint
Chicken burn	Chicken
Horseshoe Lake viewpoint	So. Fk. River bridge-river exhibit
Wade dredge	Border/Boundary-info.
Wade Camp	Franklin
40 Mile River overlook	O'Brien Creek bridge
The Kink	Joseph-river exhibit
King Creek burn	O'Brien Roadhouse
Liberty Creek	American Creek
Eagle/Ft. Egbert exhibits	Walker Fork-caribou exhibit
WAMCATS exhibit-Tanacross	
North Fork Roadhouse	Steele Creek Roadhouse

R-1.3-- Implement the program outlined in Sec. E-2 of the Cultural Resource Management Plan for Ft. Egbert, which includes cooperatively working with the Eagle Historic Society to assure that visitors are adequately informed of the history and uniqueness of the area.

R-1.4-- Establish information stations in cooperation with the U. S. Customs stations on the Alaska highway and the Boundary cut-off.

R-1.5-- Establish a interpretive display at the Delta and Tok Visitor Centers with the Chamber of Commerce from each community and provide visitors with information regarding BLM's role in land management within the Fortymile Resource Area.

R-2.1-- Develop a Recreation Management Plan for the Fortymile Area within two years.

R-2.4-- Improve and maintain the bush airstrip at Joseph (A-11).

R-2.6-- Rehabilitate and maintain the designated campgrounds. Eagle, Walker Fork, West Fork, Liberty Creek, American Creek, and Logging Cabin Creek, (C-9, C-5, C-3, C-8, C-10, C-2).

R-2.8-- Identify and rehabilitate existing historic trails.

1. Chicken to Franklin
2. Walker Fork to Boundary
3. Mt. Fairplay to Prindle Volcano
4. West Fork Campground to Ketchumstuk
5. American Summit to Eagle
6. American Summit to Glacier Mtn.
7. Glacier Mtn. to Eagle
8. Taylor Hwy. to Steele Creek

R-3.3-- Prepare a written agreement with Anchorage District Office regarding management of the portion of the Delta River withdrawal which lies in Fairbanks District.

R-4.2-- Develop an ORV management plan utilizing resource data and public input.

R-5.1-- Cooperate with other agencies having jurisdictional responsibility to develop an emergency assistance plan for the Fortymile resource area.

CR-1.1- Conduct Class II inventories with priorities to be determined by the Area Manager. Maintain files on all known sites and trails.

CR-1.4- Complete a CRES evaluation for all known cultural resources on BLM land in the Fortymile Resource Area, and for new resources located as a result of inventory work.

CR-2.1- Designate a representative sample of archaeological and historic sites for preservation for future scientific use. Stabilize such sites if necessary, but avoid all other disturbances. Location of these sites should not be made public. Excavation should be permitted when new and significant data is likely to be generated, or when imminent destruction of the site makes immediate salvage necessary.

CR-3.1- Designate a representative sample of archaeological and historic sites for present scientific use. Encourage excavation of these sites by competent professionals. If possible, combine excavation with interpretation for the public.

CR-4.1- Designate appropriate sites for public use. Provide access and information, and encourage adaptive re-use of suitable structures.

CR-4.3- Monitor sites designated for public use on a regular basis, and combine interpretation of sites with an educational program to inform the public of the negative effects of site disturbance.

CR-5.1- Designate appropriate sites for socio-cultural use and protection. Local religious, cultural, ethnic, and social groups participate inthe identification process, and should have a voice in the management of these sites. Two sites which should be considered for such are Ketchumstuk and Joseph.

CR-6.1- Designate for management purposes sites appropriate for answering questions regarding the following types of Bureau-permitted actions:

1. The effects of winter activities such as overland transport of heavy equipment or the effecs of concentrated firewood cutting on cultural resources.
2. The extent and nature of adverse impacts associated with significant recreational use.
3. The effectiveness of management techniques such as signing, educational interpretation, and monitoring.
4. The effectiveness of restoration/stabilization techniques.
5. The effects of fire on subsurface cultural resources.

CR-6.2- Sites with high value for scientific or public use should not be designated for management purposes.

VRM-1.2- Initiate further VRM inventory and analysis within the Fortymile Planning Unit to upgrade the URA, PAA and MFP to reach a more reasonable level of detail required in the new VRM Manual 8400. This analysis should be completed prior to a rewrite of the URA-MFP.

1. Information on physiographic regions for URA III (Man. Sec. 8411.51A).
2. More complete description of scenic quality rating units (Man. Sec. 8411.23).
3. Description of Scenic Quality Rating Units as grouped by Scenic Quality Classes (Man. Sec. 8411.5182b.).
4. Indication of trends in scenic quality (Man. Sec. 8411.5182d.).
5. Identify ACECs for scenic value (Man. Sec. 8411.27).
6. Complete rewrite of the evaluation fo the PAA relating to visual sensitivity determinations.

VRM-2.1- Manage the proposed Delta and Fortymile Wild and Scenic Rivers according to the terms of the withdrawal order and BLM policy. Final visual resource management guidelines will be included in the river management plans (see R-2.1) which will be required if Congress does in fact designate these rivers as wild and scenic.

VRM-2.2- Manage potential wilderness study areas according to the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (Dec. 12, 1979), and any future management guidelines.

VRM-3.1- All activities should be planned so as to minimize impacts on visual resources. Specific requirements should be geared to the scenic quality of the particular area under consideration.

VRM-6.1- All areas delineated as VRM Class V on the overlay should be managed so as to rehabilitate disturbances by removal or modification, so they will meet the scenic quality of the surrounding landscape. Intrusions listed in URA IV have been identified for rehabilitation, but insufficient inventory data is available to make specific recommendations for methods of rehabilitation. It is recommended that the following three steps be taken to meet objective VRM-6.

1. Incorporate inventory of Class V intrusions as an integral part of studies recommended in VRM-1.2.

2. Following inventory of Class V areas, prepare recommendations for alternative methods of rehabilitation of any intrusion, accompanied with a priority list of sites to be rehabilitated and the supporting activity responsible for action.

3. Prepare guidelines for rehabilitation pertinent to the Fortymile Planning Unit which will provide criteria and management alternatives for future land disturbing activities.

Wil-1.1- With the exception of lands selected by the State of Alaska, manage those areas, within the Fortymile Resource Area, that have not been assessed for wilderness as "Potential Wilderness Study Areas", under BLMs interim management policy.